

SOCIAL ACTION

News-Letter

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December, 1953

CLEVELAND CONFERENCE ON THE CHURCHES AND WORLD ORDER

More than 400 representative laymen, laywomen, and ministers of Protestant and Eastern Orthodox persuasion concluded a 4-day study on last October 31, by recommending to the churches for study and action; 12 specific resolutions dealing with international issues, four solid reports on various phases of America's international policy and a "message" dealing with the over-all justification for the churches' concern in these areas and a general approach to America's foreign responsibilities.

Through both speeches and its message the conference urged all-out support of the United Nations, Point IV technical assistance programs, relaxing of trade barriers. It also took a healthy swing at "McCarthyism" and supported regional defense efforts such as N.A.T.O.

The conference saw our major world problem as that of resisting communist totalitarianism while at the same time avoiding a third world war. Two major elements in the world situation render this exceedingly difficult. The first is the existence of "revolutionary upheavals" in many parts of our world today and the second is the Soviet-Free World tension. These two elements are not the same, though at times they may be associated in particular situations, and are not to be treated the same. The first must be dealt with by removing its causes and the second by restraining it with military threats if need be, even while instantly seeking for every opening for understanding and for alleviating the tension through discussion and conciliation.

Among the resolutions agreed upon by the conference members was one which clearly opposed the Bricker amendment and any similar attempts to curb the power of the executive branch of the government to make executive agreements and treaties.

Others urged that: "The United States, reversing cuts voted by Congress, should step up support of the United Nations technical assistance program and increase its own, at the same time divorcing them from U. S. military concerns.

"Universal disarmament that is 'enforceable' must be a major goal of U. S. policy, and the U. S. should per-

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DR. CRAIN HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER

More than 255 guests gathered in the dining hall of Third Christian Church in Indianapolis on the evening of November 17 to express their affection and respect for Dr. James A. Crain whose forthcoming retirement on June 30, 1954, was announced in the Board of Trustees meeting earlier in the week. The evening was a delightful blend of pure "humor" and deep sincerity. Former President F. E. Davison was on hand to chair a mock session of the International Convention. In it "a resolution" was introduced by the "Associated Brewers" and a number of other "interests" vilifying the executive secretary of the Social Welfare Department and charging him with subverting the morals of

BARTON HUNTER ELECTED

At the meeting of the board of trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society, held in Indianapolis on November 17-18, announcement was made of the election of Barton Hunter to become executive secretary of the Department of Social Welfare, effective upon the retirement of Dr. James A. Crain on June 30, 1954. The designation of Mr. Hunter as Dr. Crain's successor was made at this time in order to facilitate the gradual transfer of responsibility.

the Disciples of Christ. "Dr. Crain," played by George Oliver Taylor, tried manfully to "get the floor" to speak in his own defense, but found himself frustrated at every turn. Finally after uproarious testimony from many quarters "Dr. Crain" managed to get to the microphone and was just about to make an eloquent defense when two officers of the FIB rushed in, charged him with having sung in a subversive opera entitled, "Robin Hood," during his college days, and whisked him off to Siberia or somewhere.

The major event of the evening was an address by Dr. Crain himself. In it he recalled the history of the Social Welfare Department and the era out of which it grew. Alva W. Taylor and other "greats" of the early years the Brotherhood's concern in this field were recalled and a look at the future with its possibilities and hopes set the

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CHURCHMEN'S WASHINGTON SEMINAR

February 23-26, will be the dates of the interdenominational Churchmen's Washington Seminar sponsored by the National Council of Churches, held in Washington, D. C., and given over to a study of the relation of legislative processes to the concerns of the churches of America. Disciples of Christ are allowed a quota of 45 delegates to be named by the department of social welfare. Twenty of these will be selected by the chairmen of state commissions on Social Education and Action. Five will be nominated directly by the Department and twenty will be chosen on a "first apply first accepted" basis. Those interested in attending should write to Barton Hunter, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

FANGMEIER RESIGNS

It is with deep regret that the editors of *Social Action News-Letter* report the resignation of Robert A. Fangmeier from the staff of this publication. Since October, 1947, Mr. Fangmeier has served as our Washington correspondent and his "Washington Round-Up" column has been a monthly feature. As an experienced reporter connected with one of the news-gathering agencies in Washington he was well equipped to keep *News-Letter* readers informed on what was happening in the national capitol. After ten years on the Washington scene Mr. Fangmeier becomes managing editor of *Church Management*, a national religious magazine published in Cleveland, Ohio. Our regret over the loss of our Washington correspondent is tempered by the knowledge that he is entering into a field of much larger service to the Protestant churches of the nation.

J. A. C.

SO. CALIF. INSTITUTE

Enroute to Fresno, to begin the first of the joint Disciples-Baptist social education and action seminars (see page 3), James A. Crain stopped in Los Angeles on November 8-9 to share by invitation in an institute at Avalon Community Center sponsored by the social education action commission of the Southern California Christian Missionary Society. Mrs. Ethel L. Dean is chairman. This active commission holds frequent yearly meetings; sponsors daily seminars in the state convention.

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AS OTHERS SEE

We Americans are so self-sufficient and so lacking in the grace of humility that we tend to be contemptuous of what other peoples think of us. Our wealth, our power, and above all, our inexperience in world leadership, make us impatient of criticism. America is "God's country," and that's all there is to it for many of us.

This attitude is giving us a bad press throughout the world, especially as that attitude is reflected in the doings of some of our Congressional investigating committees. To charge without proof that an internationally known Bishop of the church has been guilty of subversive activities, to indict without proof 7,000 Protestant ministers as fellow-travelers and members of Communist 'front' organizations, and to subpoena a former President of the United States to testify before the committee under conditions that all but charge him with treason gives the peoples of other lands an impression of irresponsibility and political immaturity.

In early November the Associated Press carried a London dispatch stating that European editors were using their big black headlines to tell their readers about these developments. The Communist newspapers labelled it hysteria. On the other hand, responsible journals of all shades of opinion, from leftist to extreme rightist, also expressed their amazement. *Franc-Tireur*, a Paris leftist paper said, "The men of the Kremlin must be laughing hard. What authority can the U. S. President have in the world, at Bermuda or elsewhere, if he shows such weakness before the most delirious intolerance and hysteria?" The *London Daily Herald* called it "the crowning folly of the witch-hunters." The *London News-Chronicle* said it was an "exhibition of political rowdism," while the *Financial Times* labelled it "plainly a political move, the direct consequence of election losses." Copenhagen's *Information* suggested that before long we may resort to Soviet-style "confessions." Similar comments have been made by other European editors.

J. A. C.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

→*Capital Mood:* Government by accusation and investigation continues as the most prominent off-season legislative activity in the Capital. Obscured by charges and countercharges are the Administration's study commissions designed to erase the nation's New Deal social outlook. Also left in the background are the unbalanced budget, new taxes to replace cuts due January 1, and a frenzied search for a common legislative program which the GOP can support in 1954, an election year. In politics, problems tentatively solved one year usually reappear, perhaps in a new form or in a greater or lesser intensity. This is the lesson the new Administration is learning . . . meanwhile, a diversionary attack on the old Administration serves as a substitute for positive accomplishment.

→*Brownell-White:* An end to bi-partisan support of President Eisenhower's legislative program may be the most important immediate effect of Attorney General Brownell's charges against former President Truman in the Harry Dexter White case. Both northern and southern Democratic congressmen were stunned by Brownell's accusations approaching "treason" against a former President. They wonder when an old FBI file will be used against them. Being realistic politicians they realize that replies seldom catch up with accusations. Consequently, they are re-evaluating their earlier determination to support "Ike" wherever possible. Cooperation, they feel, will be impossible with an Administration which attempts to destroy the character of its rivals by accusations of treason or misconduct on evidence which a grand jury refused to support.

→*Furthermore:* The preoccupation with hunting Communists appears to be reaching a point where it is the controlling factor in Washington life. Some indication of where all this will lead was forthcoming from Attorney General Brownell on the same day he levelled charges against Mr. Truman. The Attorney General informed the American public that the Justice Department was recruiting without pay many New York City college students to help in its hunt for subversives. Mr. Brownell expressed the hope that a similar plan could be worked out in other colleges throughout the country.

→*The Clergy:* Chairman Harold Velde of the House Un-American Activities Committee, frustrated anew by Mr. Truman's refusal to honor his subpoena, may be backing away from further entanglements with the clergy. He still has set no date to air the charges of J. B. Matthews that 7,000 Protestant clergymen were a part of the Communist apparatus. Whether this hearing will come off is ques-

tionable. But further investigation of Rev. Jack McMichale, former executive secretary of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, seems likely.

→*Social Philosophy:* The Hoover Commission has been revived and given powers to recommend legislation which could erase much of the New Deal. Headed again by former President Hoover, the new group has authority to recommend elimination of certain government functions, whereas the former government reorganization committee could only suggest consolidation of bureaus to obtain more efficiency. Mr. Hoover has said that the Government's public power and rural electrification programs will be included in this study. The head of a companion committee on state-federal relations has called for the return of TVA to private enterprise. Mr. Clarence Manion, former dean of Notre Dame Law School, made this statement in a TV broadcast soon after his appointment. The theme of returning government programs to the states runs through statements from both committees. In most cases, this means turning over operations such as power and electrification to private industry.

→*UMT Again:* Support for permanent universal military training is expected from the National Security Training Commission when it makes its report to President Eisenhower in mid-December. Although the President opposed a joint UMT-Selective Service program during the 1952 campaign, he ordered the Commission to "re-study" the possibility several months ago. Just how hard the Administration will fight for the expected UMT proposal may depend upon the mood of Congress. Already Rep. Dewey Short, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has announced his opposition to such a suggestion.

→*FEPC:* Senator Irving Ives (R-N.Y.) will support a fair employment practice bill with teeth in it when Congress reconvenes. The Administration's attitude on this bill is unknown. Even though the GOP has continued the program of eliminating segregation in the armed services, it may be reluctant to upset its political gains in the South by campaigning for this measure.

→*Supreme Court:* In December or January the high court will hear more evidence in cases affecting school segregation in 17 states. After the original argument last year, the Court requested the lawyers to submit answers to a number of additional questions. The Court's decision is not expected before late Spring or Summer.

→*The Capital:* The end of segregation in Washington restaurants has taken place without any difficulty. After several months, no incidents have been reported.

R. A.

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Red, Red Robin Hood!" Mrs. Thomas J. White of Indianapolis, a member of the Indiana State Textbook Commission recently achieved world-wide notoriety when she charged that the stories of Robin Hood should be banned from the state's textbook because Communists "want to stress law and order and anything that disrupts law and order is their meat." Mrs. White said the *New York Times*, "Sherwood Forest just laughed." Said the Sheriff of Nottingham, "Why, Robin Hood is no Communist." Said the secretary of the Robin Hood Country Society, in the heart of Sherwood Forest, "... I think it is ridiculous suggestion."

The Quakers, Too, Are Reds! Mrs. White also said all references to Quakers should be deleted from textbooks because "Quakers don't believe in fighting wars. All the men they go to believe that they don't need to go to war, the better off the Communists are. It's the same as their crusade for peace—everybody down his arms and they'll take over." Perhaps there should also be deletions from the Old and New Testaments and from most Christian manuals!

Discrediting by Subpoena. Bishop Bromley Oxnam, referring to the subpoena of former President Truman by Rep. Velde, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, told a Cincinnati audience "The Communists must have congratulated themselves, inasmuch the subpoena and the tendency to discredit the highest political office in the world." Later he said that "light is an effective germicide, and Americans must turn the light upon gutters from which emerges leadership that, in the name of patriotism, would infect our people with the virus of a police state."

U. S. An Industrial Giant. The United States is the modern economic giant is the verdict of W. S. Woytinsky, who, together with his wife, S. Woytinsky, has just published a comprehensive five-year study, "World Population and Production," survey financed by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Twentieth Century Fund.

On a map distorted to show regions and countries on the scale of income in 1948, the U. S. with 40.7 percent of the total world income. On a per-person basis the U. S. tops the list with an average income of \$1,515 for 1949; Switzerland, \$950; New Zealand, \$933; Canada, \$895; Australia, \$812; Sweden, \$805; Denmark, \$781; the United Kingdom, \$777; France, \$418; Germany, \$336; Italy, \$225; Soviet Russia, \$181. At the bottom of the scale is Bolivia, with an annual per person income of \$55; the Philippines, \$41; Ecuador, \$40, with many of the countries of Asia and Africa.

J. A. C.

THE REFUGEES—PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

On August 7, the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, admitting to the United States 214,000 refugees, was signed by the President. It is emergency legislation not affecting the basic immigration law and the visas granted are not related to existing immigration quotas.

(The new law is effective until Dec. 31, 1956.)*

The principal groups to benefit under the Act are those who have escaped from Communism. Also eligible, however, are refugees from natural disasters or from shifts in colonial administrations. This latter group consists of Greeks, Dutch and Italians. The principal requirement is that they be away from their previous place of abode, unable to return, and not be firmly resettled where they are now. Immigration status also is provided for 5000 refugees already in the United States.

Another feature of the Act provides priority for relatives of persons in the United States. This includes parents or children of U. S. citizens, brothers or sisters of citizens, and husbands, wives, and unmarried children under 21 of aliens now lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

Four thousand orphans under ten years of age are to be admitted. Obviously they must be safeguarded, and sponsorship will have to be in a quite different form. Adoption is the ultimate goal but most state and federal laws regarding adoption require study and investigation by child-placing agencies before placing. Their processing in Europe must also safeguard possible relatives and claims.

(A special program will be planned to handle their immigration.)

It is estimated that the total group of refugees for which Church World Service and its member communions will be responsible—the Protestant, Orthodox and others—will number about 100,000. The basis of the program under the Refugee Relief Act is assurances given for refugees by individual American citizens. These will be channeled through the national volunteer agencies and sent overseas. Refugees will be processed by the overseas agencies (such as World Council of Churches) and their eligibility determined by the regular Immigration Services.

Assurances may be given either for specific refugees, stating family members and address; or for unnamed refugees stating preferences in family composition and occupation. Those offering general assurance will be

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DISCIPLES—BAPTISTS COOPERATE IN CALIFORNIA

A project of potentially great significance for future Disciples-Baptists cooperation was carried out during the week of November 8. Under the joint auspices of the commission on social education and action of the Northern California Christian Missionary Society and the corresponding commission of the American Baptist Convention of Northern California a series of social education and action seminars were held in Fresno, San Jose and Sacramento, ending with a two-day area-wide seminar in Berkeley.

National leadership of the two communions was represented by Dr. Donald B. Cloward of New York City, executive secretary of the Council for Christian Social Progress, and James A. Crain, executive secretary of the Department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society. The local leaders were Wilder V. Immel, of Lakeport, California, chairman of the Disciples' commission, Mr. Stanley M. Cole, of Berkeley, chairman of the Baptist commission, Miss Bernice Cofer, secretary for Christian Friendliness, of the California Baptist women's organization, Henry Mitchell associate secretary of the Baptist organization, Prof. Gordon Lahrson, of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School and Peter Washington, M. J. Votruba, Bruce L. Jones and Mrs. J. Munroe Warner, members of the Disciples commission.

Attendance at all sessions was good, except for the fact that at Sacramento a civic reception for Governor Knight, who succeeded to the office when former Governor Warren was appointed Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, was the center of popular attention. At Fresno, an afternoon forum session brought together 70 persons with nearly 100 at the evening dinner session at the new First Baptist Church. In San Jose more than 100 attended the dinner and evening forum at First Christian Church. The Sacramento session was held in the Del Paso Boulevard Christian Church, with about 50 present. The Berkeley dinner session at University Christian Church filled every seat in the spacious dining room. The final sessions on Saturday, November 14, at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School were also largely attended.

The two area committees were pleased with the cooperative effort and are making plans for repeating the experience a year hence.

J. A. C.

CLEVELAND—Cont. From Page 1

sist in efforts to achieve it working within the United Nations.

"The McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act should be amended to eliminate "unrealistic, discriminatory" provisions and bring it into line with "basic American principles" of justice and fairplay.

"Respecting *Communist China*, the United States should resist pressures that would hamper "wise action" in the future should present conditions change.

"*Surplus foods* in the United States should be better distributed to meet the needs of hungry and malnourished populations at home and abroad.

"Dependent or colonial peoples should receive technical and financial aid from the United States — through church, business and voluntary agencies as well as government — to advance their efforts toward self-rule.

"*Racial tensions* in America, which "undercut our moral position among the darker-skinned peoples of Asia and Africa, "must be eased at home through eliminating segregation and discrimination in churches, employment, housing and public service."

On most issues there was substantial agreement among the delegates.

The question which provoked the keenest discussion was that on collective security. Here the conference split approximately two-thirds to one-third on the question of supporting regional defense arrangements and the question of approving the U. N. police action in Korea. The majority favored support of both.

In a sense the conference could speak for no one except itself. Officially it represented neither the National Council of Churches nor any of its constituent bodies. In another sense, however, it very clearly reflected the mind and spirit of cooperative Protestantism.

As such a "reflection" it deserves the careful study of local church groups all over the country. With this idea in mind the Department of International Justice and Good Will of the National Council is publishing a pamphlet containing the official statements of the conference and a study guide to accompany it to aid study groups in their discussion of the issues involved.

Copies of these two documents will be available sometime in December at 30 cents each and may be ordered either through the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y., or through the Department of Social Welfare, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

DR. CRAIN—Cont. From Page 1

pattern of the address in typical "Jim Crain" fashion.

Two beautiful, leather bound volumes of letters of appreciation were presented to Dr. Crain by Dr. A. Dale Fiers, President of the United Christian Missionary Society, who presided. Over 450 different letters of congratulation and recognition entered into the making of the volumes, and a third volume is in preparation.

Spoken tributes were given on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Society, the cabinet, the Division of Home Missions and the Staff of the Social Welfare Department. These were brought by Mrs. D. F. Jorgensen, Miss Genevieve Brown, Dr. Willard M. Wickizer and Mr. Barton Hunter.

The music which was especially appropriate for the occasion included a baritone solo, "One World" by Mr. Fidel Reyes and two selections by a girls' trio from the Mission building, composed of Martha Whitehead, Alice Rist Langford and Gloria Layne. A feature of the evening was a recording of "No Man Is An Island," a duet by Mrs. Rosa Page Welch and her daughter, Linnie, and "He's Got the Whole world in His Hands," a solo by Mrs. Welch who could not be present but sent the recordings as a personal tribute to Dr. Crain.

Perhaps the finest tribute of the evening was the benediction which was offered by Dr. James W. Crain, physician-son of "Jim."

It is always difficult to put into words the spirit and significance of such an occasion. It was more than a gracious gesture of friendship and affection on behalf of the very wide circle of friends who wished to honor Dr. Crain. It was also a symbol of appreciation and recognition for the causes for which he has given himself as executive secretary of the Department of Social Welfare. It was a grateful Brotherhood's way of saying "We believe in you and that for which you have stood through the years."

The committee in charge of the evening composed of Don West, George Oliver Taylor, Miss Mayble Epp and Mrs. Clark Buckner deserve a special note of commendation for the way in which they caught the spirit of the occasion and mingled fun and earnestness in just such a pattern as has characterized Dr. Crain's own life.

BOOK REVIEW

Industrial Practices in the Y.M.C.A., A Guide for Officers and Leaders in Local Y.M.C.A.s. Association Press. \$1.00.

This study guide, prepared by the National Study Commission on Interracial Practices of the Y.M.C.A., is largely a report of its findings in regard to inter-racial relationships in the Y. M. It is addressed principally to "Y" staff and board members.

REFUGEES—Cont. From Page 1

given the opportunity to accept or reject the particular family matched to their assurance. Assurances must be: a *Job*, at prevailing wages, specifying general occupations preferred rather than a specific job; *Housing*, which will be suitable; *Inland Transportation* which is repayable by the refugee on a graded basis; *Fare* to the U. S. must be paid by the future employer, a relief organization, or by the refugee himself; the sponsors must do everything in their power to see that refugees do not become a public responsibility as long as they remain under their sponsorship. Preliminary assurances, or initial offers of sponsorship not yet firmly related to job and housing are warmly welcomed. They can be reinforced and made more specific at a later point when an actual refugee family is suggested for them.

Files will be sent by the World Council to Church World Service on all refugees selected and as soon as they are selected. Standard forms for these files are being prepared so that they will contain as much as possible of the information helpful to agencies in matching to assurances, and helpful to sponsors in accepting, rejecting or preparing for refugees. Before a visa is issued, the refugee will file with the World Council a statement of acceptance of the assurance given him, showing understanding of the assurance; acceptance of the housing and employment offered even though it may not be in his field; and an agreement to repay inland transportation if the sponsor specifies.

Security checks are to be thorough. All the security provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act apply. Each alien must be investigated before he gets a visa and, if the consular or immigration officer abroad has reason to believe that the alien is ineligible on any grounds, a visa will be denied.

The Churches, including our own†
†By vote of the International Convention Assemblies of 1952 and 1953.

*For more detailed information see: *U. S. News & World Report*, Aug. 14, 1953, and *Christian Social Relatives*, Oct. 15, 1953, monthly bulletin issued by Dept. of Christian Social Relations of the National Council of the Episcopal Church.

R. E. M.

The recommendations and suggestions are based on the conviction that Christian brotherhood is valid in-so far as it is inclusive. The authors believe that the Y.M.C.A. should help to create new and sounder patterns of relationships among persons rather than submit to practices which are irreconcilable with the Christian and democratic ideals proclaimed by the movement. There is a chapter on case studies and reports on interracial practices and program of nine local Y.M.C.A.s.

LEWIS H. DEER